

**CRASPEDOLEPTA NEBULOSA (ZETTERSTEDT)  
(HEMIPT.: PSYLLIDAE), A PSYLLID NEW TO IRELAND**

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WHILE COLLECTING insects in the woods at Virginia (Irish grid reference N 5987) on 15 July 1999, the author noted galls on the leaves of rosebay willow-herb *Chamerion angustifolium*. There were two different galls, both with the leaf margins rolled downwards. One was scarce and the other abundant. The former was tightly rolled and contained the larvae of *Dasineura kiefferiana* (Rübsaamen) (Diptera), a species new to Ireland (O'Connor, 2000). The latter was loosely rolled and contained psyllid nymphs. From White & Hodkinson (1982), it was evident that they belonged to either *Craspedolepta nebulosa* (Zetterstedt) or *Neocraspedolepta subpunctata* (Foerster). Neither species had been previously recorded from Ireland. Unfortunately, the specimens were too immature to be identified to species.

In August 1999, the author revisited the woods to collect further material. None were found although the galls were plentiful. Subsequently, on 14 August 2000, similar galls were discovered on *C. angustifolium* alongside a woodland track near Fiddown, Co. Waterford (S 4618). These were also empty except for the skin of a large psyllid nymph. It was unidentifiable due to damage.

On 16 May 2001, a return visit was made to Virginia. No galls were found on the rosebay willow-herb despite an intensive search. However a large number of plant heads were collected for further examination. These yielded twenty-six psyllids which were determined as *C. nebulosa* using Ossiannilsson (1992). The specimens occurred in the growing heads. The density was normally one or two specimens per plant, but four individuals were found in one head. However it is uncertain if this species caused the Virginia galls. *C. nebulosa* is reported as producing galls with the leaf upturned while those of *N. subpunctata* have the leaf down-turned (Lauterer & Baudys, 1968; Redfern et al., unpublished). As a result, *N. subpunctata* may be yet found in the Virginia woods. In Moravia, both species occurred on the same host plant (*C. angustifolium*) with *C. nebulosa* being the rarer species. Interestingly, the larvae of the two species do not produce leaf galls regularly (Lauterer & Baudys, *op. cit.*).

*C. nebulosa* is common throughout southern Britain, becoming scarcer in Scotland. The species also occurs in central and northern Europe, the European part of the former U.S.S.R., Kazakhstan, Georgia, Kamchatka, Maritime Territory, Sakhalin, Siberia and North America (Hodkinson & White, 1979; Ossiannilsson, *op. cit.*). Voucher specimens have been deposited in the National Museum of Ireland.

### References

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### ***Lipara rufitarsis* Loew (Dip.: Chloropidae) in Kent, with belated records of two other species of Chloropidae**

There are three known British species of *Lipara*, namely *L. lucens* Meigen, *L. rufitarsis* Loew and *L. similis* Schiner and all form stem-galls on common reed *Phragmites australis* (Chvála, M., Doskoč, J., Mook, J. H. & Pokorný, V. 1974. The genus *Lipara* (Dipt., Chloropidae) systematics, morphology and ecology. *Tijdschrift voor Entomologie* 117: 1-25). *Lipara rufitarsis* is currently listed as Notable and *L. similis* as Red Data Book category 2 - Vulnerable (Falk, S. J. 1991. A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 1. Research and Survey in nature conservation 31: 1-142). J. E. Collin gave details of records for *L. rufitarsis* collected in Devon and at Chippenham Fen, Cambridgeshire (Collin, J. E. 1946. The British genera and species of Oscinellinae (Diptera, Chloropidae). *Trans. Roy. Ent. Soc.* 97: 117-148) whilst more recently it has been found in Berkshire, Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire, Huntingdonshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey and Warwickshire (John Ismay, *pers. comm.*).

During late winter and early spring 2000 MJ collected numerous *Lipara* galls as part of a study into the hymenopterous parasites associated with cecidogenous flies. Most were assumed to be of *L. lucens* but when adults began to emerge during the following June it was clear that both *L. lucens* and *L. rufitarsis* were present. The data are:

Ex gall 1392 – a collection of galls thought to be of *L. lucens* on *Phragmites* growing sparsely on the edge of saltmarsh, Egypt Bay, High Halstow, OS grid reference TQ 7778, 28.ii.2000. Em. *L. lucens* 5.vi, 8.vi and 12.vi.2000; *L. rufitarsis* 5.vi.2000. This collection also produced several specimens of *Polemochartus liparae* (Giraud) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) and two nymphs of *Conocephalus dorsalis* (Latreille) (Orthoptera: Conocephalidae), the latter presumably from eggs deposited in or about the galls.

Ex gall 1436 – a gall collected as *L. rufitarsis* on *Phragmites* growing in a ditch adjacent to path leading into a new reserve, Grove Ferry, Stodmarsh NNR, TR2362, 9.iv.2000. Em. *L. rufitarsis* 17.vi.2000.